of Rs. 660.04 lakh (Rupees six crore sixty lakh four thousand only) was sanctioned during the Ninth Plan under the Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Project for taking up works in Andhra Pradesh over 15114 hectares.

The works were taken up by Government of Andhra Pradesh in the districts of Anantapur, Chittoor, Kurnool, Cuddapah, Guntur, Prakasam, Nellore, Krimnagar, Mahabubnagar, Nalgonda, Rangareddy, Medak, Nizamabad and Krishna.

The details of physical targets, achievements and funds sanctioned to the State during the last three years are as follows:—

Year	Physical (in ha.)		Financial (Rs. in lakh) Am Released as Central Assistance
	Target	Achievement	
1999-2000	3892	3892	69.92
2000-2001	2714	3754	146.38
2001-2002	5470	5394	162.77
TOTAL:	12076	13040	379.07

An independent evaluation of the implementation of the projects sanctioned during Ninth Plan upto 1999-2000 shows that the average survival percentage of plantations comes to 71.8%, which is quite satisfactory.

Forest areas in Kerala and Karnataka

3381. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total forest areas of Kerala and Karnataka during the period 1981—2001, separately;

(b) whether it is a fact that large scale depletion of forest areas is taking place in these States;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to protect the forest land from further depletion?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Forest Survey of India assesses the forest cover of the country

biennially using satellite imageries. The forest cover in the States of Kerala and Karnataka as per the first assessment of the period from 1981—1983 and as per the latest assessment of the period 1997—1999 is as under:—

State	Forest cover in 1981—83 (in sq. km.)	Forest Cover in 1997—99 (in Sq. Km.)	Change of forest cover (in sq. km.)
Kerala	10292	10323	+31
Karnataka	32268	32467	+199

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Various steps taken to increase/improve the forest/ u[r]ee cover in the country are listed below:

(i) Afforestation programmes are undertaken by State Governments from their own resources as well as with financial assistance from Government of India.

(ii) Guidelines have been issued to all States to involve village communities in protection and regeneration of degraded forests.

(iii) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate the diversion of forest land for non forestry purposes.

(iv) A network of protected areas has been established.

(v) Ministry of Environment and Forests has prepared a National Forestry Action Programme to enhance the contribution of forestry and tree resources for ecological stability and people- centered development through increased investments in conservation and development of forest resources.

Kyoto Protocol on Environment

3382. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether bending over backwards, Government have welcomed the US Policy on climate change, opposing the Kyoto Protocol, which has all along been opposed by India as a pioneer of the cause of the developing world;

(b) if so, the details of the Kyoto Protocol, the stand taken by the US thereupon, and Government's decision in regard thereto; and